GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3534
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2000
WATERSHED COMPONENT UNDER EAS
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for Watershed Component under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) during 1999-2000, till date, State-wise;

(b) whether many States have not utilized the funds during 1999-2000;

(c) if so, the details of such States; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure proper utilization of funds meant for this purpose by the States?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a) The State-wise release statement for the year 1999-2000 and up to 30.11.2000 towards the completion of Watershed Projects taken up prior to 1.4.99 under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) is enclosed in the ANNEXURE.

(b) to (d) The utilization of funds in watershed projects is a continuous process. The next instalment of funds in these projects is generally released after 50% of the previous instalment is utilized by the implementation agency. A large number of DRDAs in eleven States have already claimed release of funds in 2000-2001. In order to ensure proper utilisation of funds meant for this purpose, the Guidelines for Watershed Development provide constitution of a Watershed Development Advisory Committee at the district level and a Watershed Programme Implementation & Review Committee at the State level.Funds are released directly to ZPs/DRDAs for implementation of the Watershed Projects. At the Central level, implementation of the projects is monitored through periodical review by Secretary(RD) with the concerned State Secretaries.Similar Reviews are undertaken by the Joint Secretary, Incharge of the Programme. Visit to the project area by Central Officers handling the Programmes as well as by the Area Officers help in ensuring proper utilization of released funds meant for the watershed projects by the implementing agencies.